This is a collection of found poetry, sourced from various fashion magazines and websites. All words are kept in the order they were found in.
By Ke'Aun Charles

The Poetics of Fashion

We have to believe in the idea of fashion.
Like so many, I started out dressing for
practicality than pleasure.
But comfortable though such an outfit
might be,
it has a profoundly damaging effect
on my morale.

a pair of proper heels sharpened my focus.

This issue is dedicated
to the idea of fashion:
as an aesthetic,
as a cultural moment,
and vitally important business
shaking society,
dressing on the scarlet bonnet of the
French revolutionaries, and the
saffron ruffs worn
by women at court.

Fashion as a weapon to kill.
as an art form to inspire.
a gloriously exuberant confection in
shades of rose, blush, and sugar pink
plunged into the icy waters of
Cumbria's Buttermere.

I hope that you will find it immersive.

Editor's Letter, Harper's Bazaar. March 2021

the right to be comfortable has its limits

"The right to be comfortable has its limits."
While chatting about the mutations of fashion
in the pandemic-ravaged age, we do our best to steer clear
of the familiar:
philosophy,
death,
Paris,
Giorgio Armani.
We respond coherently to the demand for
sustainability expressed by a clientele that is...
less interested in classical theories
of beauty.
But no amount of skillful cutting can remedy
the limitations of poor-quality material
-- this has always been a problem with the younger generation.

With the support of the auto industry
-- 20 customised Lancia cars parading around the Roman Forum--
the young man realised the power of transversal communication.
"Fashion often attracts people
who lack the power to propagate an image.
That's the beauty and the challenge
of this craft."

"Nino 90" L'uomo Vogue pgs 37-38

life does not exist beyond the Big Four
Barcelona-born,
London-taught,
Paris-based.
in touch with Parisian houses,
meeting Italian suppliers,
His first collection gained traction
-- and a spot on *Vogue Talents.*

the duality of a retro aesthetic
articulated in ultra-modern fabrications is
something he laments. “you can only have a modern twist
if you understand the context.”
past generations -- and past victims.
a crowd of people that vanished.

“Generational Shift” pg 41 Archie Alled-Martinez

Revolutions From Above

Revolutions from Above

accomplished founder of a

philosophical association had a

close relationship with Chanel.

was born with Chanel.

a Haute Couture wedding,

the royal and the storied, together

“spontaneously.”

“My contribution is being someone.

this strength, it can move culture forward.”

the first event will take place at Paris.

Found poetry referenced from W Magazine article “Charlotte Casiraghi is Chanel’s Newest Ambassador — With a Literary Twist” by Andrea Whittle, Published December 21, 2020.

Starting Over
This time last year, I was on my way
to Milan Fashion Week.
Though we didn't know it then, those were
the last days.
Now the simplest, most mundane actions feel
shockingly transgressive, a thing confined
to memory.

it's easy to mourn what once was, but
starting over is different to
starting again. It's about
erasing
what came before.
Which is what this issue
is about:

starting over in Hollywood,
in London,
turning up to parties
in LA.
to start over you have to leave
your ego behind,
leave yourself open,
and never rely on the past.

I too made the pilgrimage to the capital,
leaving my hometown. I often wonder
what it would be like to return
to the very place you left behind.
Starting over in your mind,
it appears,
is one of the hardest things to do.

Editor's Letter, Elle Magazine. March 2021 issue.

Hope For Escape
Fashion Pieces Transport You to Paris,
an instant escape with Dior. we're about
to round the corner, we're all looking for
a new way.

Skip strolling along the Seine.
To capture that same dreamy beauty,
simply turn to a pleated skirt.
Soft pleats feel just as magical.

Found Poem referenced from "4 Fashion Pieces That'll Transport You to Paris" published by Elle Magazine

Photogenics
How do you translate the way I feel,
the way clothes feel,
to portray yourself as inhuman.
Those models I idolized because of their
elegance, their grace,
confidence and spirit,
made me realize how
I might not be good enough.
I surrender to that.
Surrender to falling behind.

You need to understand: There's logic
and the soul. surrendering to being a
mannequin
and wanting to be yourself.
that part of evolution,
that out-of-body experience,
all the hard work has been for this moment.

Found Poem referenced from "Alton Mason on the Redefinition of the Male Model"
by Irene Ojo-Felix, published on Models.com

The Pradasphere

Prada is a
groundbreaking evolution
of the most recognisable signifier
-luxury,
that can be endlessly regenerated without loss.
cyclical luxury,
process of de-purification and then transformation
into new threads.
this material can be recuperated
and made into new
intentions and new
viewers across every
continent
of the world.

Found Poem referenced from "Prada Re-Nylon 2020" published on Prada.com

This New World, Made-to-Order
Chloé has announced a transformation into a company focused on
sustainability
and empowerment.

Balenciaga's Fashion Fantasy, titled
Afterworld: Moving beyond, dons
dystopic armor through storefronts,
gardens, and the runway.

Dior took the Stars.
Fall has been busy this year,
but this celestial collection continues,
cheekily pointed to as a homage.

Found Poem referenced from "Gabriela Hearst to Chloé, Balenciaga Goes Virtual and more of the news you missed" published on Models.com

untitled

Today's trending motif is mushrooms embroidered
on dresses and carved
from opals, inspiring our
fall
down the rabbit hole. Mushrooms remind us
of childhood adventures less ordinary than
magic and aesthetics: reishi-laced coffee to boost
anxiety and depression.

We'll literally be wearing our obsession:
a desire to reconnect with the outside world
--the underground network of thread-like branches
growing beneath mushrooms,
connecting
every living plant and tree,
regenerating the earth.

a poetic story of harmony and balance
that most of us will never see.

You Aren't Tripping: Fungi Are Taking Over Fashion by Emily Farra.
April 2, 2021

The Fashionist Triune
God's announced a partnership with Adidas.
the implications are significant.
the Three Stripes appears in mind,
the third pillar of the Fear of God.
performance basketball and
active lifestyle products complete
God's triune nature.
the other two pillars:
Essentials and luxury.

these three pillars have long been the plan.
"it is through the trinity that we find the
foundation
for all design
and creation."
the made-in-the-stars nature of this
vision, realizing God professed that he's
chasing the American dream—living out that
fantasy defined by the LeBron James and
Michael Jordans of the world.

This is more of a cultural play.
"The global impact that God has had on
culture
and the industry
is undeniable.
We look forward to working with him
to inspire
the next generation."

Found poem referenced from "Jerry Lorenzo Takes the Next Step Towards His Fashion Revolution" by Cam Wolf, published on GQ.com.

$250 Moisturizers

What's the Point?
sell fantasy with reality.
a supermodel starched white,
front line workers graced in
a white respirator mask.

Consumerist dreams derailed,
slashed shoppers, a fraught relationship.
resentment and rage has risen
toward the same half smiles,
not a face in sight.

readers shouldn't expect
unused material, there will be
no crisis. sirens blared in the background
in between stories about eye creams
and infectious disease.

Read the room. Registering appetites
and anxieties is still important, but
I'm less paranoid.
Readers want to see
the everyday. We are listening to them.

Found Poetry referenced from *New York Times* article "What's the Point of a Fashion Magazine Now?" By Elizabeth Paton and Jessica Testa, Published April 9, 2020

selling shovels
Shoppers with money to burn,
burn.
still finding ways to splurge on
used Saint Laurent boots.

leaning towards crisis
-luxury has accelerated crisis-
a new attitude emerged.
the pandemic and recession has heightened focus on
symbols.

designer items can be timeless.
luxury pieces make
shoppers feel
something.

Found poem referenced from "Holiday Shoppers With Money To Burn Covet Secondhand Luxury" by Jacqueline Davalos on BusinessOfFashion.com

Authoritative Winnowing

The fashion industry is in a state of emergency.
a rebellion against the stiletto-stacked closets of
Manhattan. women went to the farmer's market,
or a co-working space, and joined in
mourning.

taking more was the answer. That was the point.
The vast majority, inundated with options and an
abundance of access, need some authoritative, persuasive
winnowing.

"That's what is so valuable.
a strong community."
shoppers will someday rely on hers.
curation will come full circle, to where
it's more important than ever.

Found poetry referenced from article "Saying Goodbye to Bird" by Jessica Testa, published on nytimes.com.

The Praxis of Fashion
Model Is Finally Having Her Moment
in a trial: "I had on a
Calvin Klein cord riding pant with a matching raw wool blazer, and I was
so fierce." A trailblazing model,
eclectic and eccentric.
"grunge one day, heels the next."

She took courage from
Dolce & Gabbana and
Jean Paul Gaultier and
worked her way up from
the catalog shoots.
a dreamlike triumph,
almost miraculous.

"Gold is my favorite color!"
she says, laughing.
She still gets choked up,
her head in a silk Chanel scarf.
She craved the bright lights of
Manhattan and
libertine abandon because
she was the one with big ideas—the mover and shaker.

"This is about
the collective,
the
people
as
a
whole."

Found Poem referenced from "Model Precious Lee Is Finally Having Her Moment" by Lynn Yaeger. Published by Vogue Magazine.

priceless wisdom for $40
-- the freshness of his skin
casts a special radiance. It's like the
glow on the face of a motorcyclist accelerating
Towards the sun.

Two movie stars.
Two Texans.
they are above all,
two fathers.

They've been invited to discuss the subject in a conversation,
viewable for 40 dollars. Unfiltered memories recounting
adventures and misadventures, abuse and violence,
and largely dedicated to his father.

It's the marrow of life itself, a poison that becomes
the universe.
We live under the false impression that our pain, our dreams,
are so incredibly unique...

"How To Act Like a Man", L'uomo Vogue, edited by Raffaele Panizza, pgs 62-64

ARIES

Aries set the trend.
I love that "eureka moment,"
when you feel that all your ideas and concepts -appropriated by so many, distorted and misused- has no significance anymore.
Don't want to divide the line, But even now,
I think it is difficult to be truly
unconventional.
I don't have a problem with nostalgia
-if you don't acknowledge it.
It can be a powerful stratagem,
when you use it confidently.

Found poetry from L'Officiel USA summer 2019 issue (ARIES article).

A Shared Moment on the Hiking Trails

Our ears collectively piqued
when we first heard
the mountains,
familiar with high-low love in both definitions of the word:
Bright notes of cyan and kelly green,
vintage motifs, and the iconic.
With hazy, sun-drenched models,
out of focus and
out of frame.

Found Poem referenced from "The North Face X Gucci Explores The Great Outdoors" by Justine Carreon, published in Elle Magazine.

CONTRIBUTORS
An item from history you wish you owned:

Egyptian scrolls.
long silk slip dresses.
A cave painting of hands found
on the island of Sulawesi.
movement and light against
the magnificent natural backdrop
of the Ocean
and The Northern Lights.
Clothes that speak louder
than words.
The new look.
The Holy Grail.
A calm rhythm in fashion
and beauty
where quality rules
over quantity.
Trust.
a vibrant New York home.
The idea of any person who
is not afraid
to dress distinctively.

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original article lost